

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

CNO WASHDC

NPGSCOL MONTEREY

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1677

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: PERMREPS LUNCH, MARCH 25

CNO PASS TO OP-604

SUMMARY: AT THEIR REGULAR TUESDAY LUNCH ON MARCH 25, NATO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSSED DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE NAC MINISTERIALS, LATEST SALT DEVELOPMENTS, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR A NUMBER OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAVELS. SUMMARY.

1. DATES AND VENUES FOR FORTHCOMING NAC MINISTERIALS. AMBASSADOR BRUCE, REFERRING TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS AMONG PERMREPS ABOUT THESE MATTERS, SAID IT STRUCK HIM AS A GOOD IDEA, AND WASHINGTON AGREES, THAT NOT ONLY THE VENUES FOR SPRING NAC MINISTERIALS
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SHOULD BE DECIDED IN ADVANCE BUT ALLIES SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER FIXING REGULAR DATES FOR BOTH THE SPRING AND FALL NAC MINISTERIALS. THESE DATES MIGHT BE, FOR THE SPRING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FIRST THURSDAY AND FRIDAY IN JUNE; AND SIMILARLY, FOR THE FALL, THE

SECOND THURSDAY AND FRIDAY IN DECEMBER, BRUCE SAID. FIXING DATES IN THIS FASHION WOULD HAVE THE SPECIFIC ADVANTAGE, AT A TIME OF RISING TRAVEL COSTS AND INCREASING PRESSURES OF MINISTERS' SCHEDULES, OF ALLOWING OTHER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS TO BE FITTED IN AROUND THE NATO GATHERINGS, USING THE NATO SESSIONS AS FIXED POINTS IN THE CALENDAR. FURTHERMORE, WITH THE NATO MEETING DATES BLOCKED OUT IN ADVANCE, MINISTERS' BILATERAL VISITS COULD BE SCHEDULED TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH THE NATO MEETINGS. ABOUT VENUE, BRUCE SAID, WASHINGTON THOUGHT PERMREPS MIGHT CONSIDER SUPPORTING AN EXAMINATION BY DR. LUNS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFIRMING AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE VENUES FOR FORTHCOMING SPRING MEETINGS. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT DOMESTIC AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS MAY REQUIRE A MEMBER TO FOREGO HOSTING A MEETING, NONETHELESS WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE ALPHABETICAL ROTATION SYSTEM WHICH WAS ADOPTED SOME YEARS AGO HAS BEEN LARGELY LOST THROUGH NUMEROUS SUBSTITUTIONS. THE SYG THEREFORE MIGHT PROJECT A FRESH SCHEDULE OF SPRING SESSIONS OVER, SAY, THE NEXT DECADE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENTS.

2. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF FIXING REGULAR SEMIANNUAL DATES FOR THE NAC MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. THE ONLY CONCERN EXPRESSED WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERFERENCE WITH SUCH FIXED DATES BECAUSE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN PARTICULAR COUNTRIES. BUT, PERMREPS AGREED THAT AS NOTHING COULD BE WORSE THAN THE EXISTING HAPHAZARDLY LATE SCHEDULING, THIS U.S. IDEA HAD MERIT AND WAS WORTH PURSUING. AS TO THE FIXING IN ADVANCE NAC SPRING MINISTERIAL VENUES, THERE WAS LITTLE SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. SUGGESTION SINCE IT SEEMED COMMONLY BELIEVED THAT THE ROTATION ARRANGEMENT LONG IN VOGUE WAS THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THE MATTER. PERMREPS THOUGHT THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD ARISEN THIS YEAR WERE EXTRAORDINARY AND DUE TO UNPRECEDENTED CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. LATEST SALT DEVELOPMENTS. BRUCE REFERRED TO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT JOINT U.S./SOVIET WORKING GROUPS HAD BEEN SET UP IN GENEVA TO BEGIN TRANSLATING VLADIVOSTOK ACCORDS INTO A SALT AGREEMENT. GIVEN THIS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN SALT, BRUCE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BE USEFUL TO CIRCULATE TO HIS COLLEAGUES A LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR JOHNSON TO UPDATE THEM ON LATEST SALT DEVELOPMENTS. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR SAID HE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE THIS LETTER IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND WILL CIRCULATE IT AS SOON AS HE CAN.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AND TRAVELS.

A) SYG LUNS INQUIRED OF BRUCE WHEN THE NAC COULD EXPECT A MIDDLE EAST BRIEFING BY UNDER SECRETARY SISCO OR SOMEONE ELSE AS PROMISED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. IN ADDITION, LUNS ASKED DE ROSE (FRANCE) IF THE COUNCIL COULD BE BRIEFED ON THE CHIRAC VISIT TO MOSCOW. BOTH AMBASSADORS UNDERTOOK TO SEEK INFORMATION.

B) BRUCE RECALLED THAT AN UPDATE BRIEFING ON COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR THE NAC ON APRIL 9. PERMREPS WELCOMED THIS.

C) LUNS SAID NAC MEMBERS, WHO WILL BE IN ANNAPOLIS ON JUNE 18-19 FOR THE SACLANT SYMPOSIUM, COULD HOPE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD ON JUNE 20. SEVERAL PERMREPS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT EVEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LUNCH OR DINNER WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

D) PERMREPS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE VARIETY OF MEANS BY WHICH THEY, THEIR DEFENSE MINISTERS, AND OTHER OFFICIALS WILL BE REACHING CALIFORNIA FOR THE NPG MINISTERIAL. LUNS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO CALIFORNIA ON THURSDAY, JUNE 12, WITH THE EXPECTATION OF VISITING U.S. NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS ON THE 13TH AND 14TH, THEN RESTING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 15, PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE NPG MINISTERIAL (JUNE 16-17). A NUMBER OF PERMREPS SAID IT WOULD ASSIST THEM AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS GREATLY IN THEIR TRAVEL PLANNING IF THEY COULD HAVE DEFINITE INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SIDE TRIP TO VISIT U.S. NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS.

E) LUNS ASCERTAINED THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO HIS ACCEPTING ON HIS OWN AND ON PERMREPS' BEHALF THE INVITATION BY ADMIRAL JOHNSTON TO VISIT NAPLES TOWARD THE END OF JUNE, AND THE SYG UNDERTOOK TO DISCUSS WITH ADMIRAL JOHNSTON THE EXACT DATE FOR THIS VISIT. BRUCE

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